

STATE OF VERMONT
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

Docket No. 7825

Investigation into Washington Electric Cooperative,)
Inc.'s tariff filing requesting an overall rate increase in)
the amount of 2.27%, to take effect January 1, 2012)
)

Order entered: 12/29/2011

ORDER OPENING INVESTIGATION AND
NOTICE OF HEARING

I. REPORT

On November 15, 2011, Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("WEC" or "Company") filed revisions to its tariffs reflecting a 2.27% increase in its rates, to take effect on a service-rendered basis commencing January 1, 2012 (Tariff filing #8304). WEC also submitted a petition and other documents in support of its proposed tariff revisions. The Company provided notice of the proposed rate increase to its customers by publication in the following newspapers: the *Times Argus*; the *Caledonian-Record*; the *Hardwick Gazette*; and the *Journal Opinion*. The Company also posted notice of the proposed rate change on its web site.

On December 16, 2011, the Vermont Department of Public Service ("Department"), pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 225, informed the Board that it had reviewed the filing and recommended that the Board investigate the proposed rate increase.

II. TEMPORARY ORDER

The Public Service Board accepts the Department's recommendation, and HEREBY ORDERS, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 226(b), an investigation into the justness and reasonableness of Washington Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s proposed tariff revisions as filed with the Board on November 15, 2011.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 226(b), that until final determination of the proceeding hereby instituted, increased rates shall be implemented by means of an identical 2.27% surcharge to each class of ratepayers under the rate design tariffs previously approved by the Public Service Board.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to 30 V.S.A. Section 11(a)(2), that a prehearing conference will be held in this matter on Friday, January 13, 2012, commencing at 1:30 P.M., at the Public Service Board Hearing Room, Third Floor, People's United Bank Building Bank Building, 112 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont.

Dated at Montpelier, Vermont, this 29th day of December, 2011.

s/ Susan M. Hudson

Clerk of the Board

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

FILED: December 29, 2011

ATTEST: s/ Susan M Hudson

Clerk of the Board

NOTICE TO READERS: This decision is subject to revision of technical errors. Readers are requested to notify the Clerk of the Board (by e-mail, telephone, or in writing) of any apparent errors, in order that any necessary corrections may be made. (E-mail address: psb.clerk@state.vt.us)